

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 121540Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3255

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 7412

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF, PLO

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN TALKS THIS MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI, HE PASSED ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA:
2. ASHAF MARWAN ARRIVES TONIGHT IN AMMAN CARRYING A LETTER FROM SADAT FOR KING IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S LETTER DELIVERED TWO WEEKS AGO BY ABD AL MUMIN RIFAI AND BAHJAT TALHUNI AND LISTING JORDAN'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT PLO ANTI JORDANIAN ACTIVITIES AND THREATS SINCE RABAT SUMMIT. JORDANIANS EXPECT THEY WILL BE URGED BY SADAT TO GO TO GENEVA AND ALSO TO PARTICIPATE IN QUADRIPARTITE MEETING WITH EGYPT, SYRIA AND PLO.
3. RIFAI NOTED THAT JORDAN HAS RECEIVED A FORMAL INVITATION FROM ARAB LEAGUE TO QUADRIPARTITE MEEING IN CAIRO AFTER THE EID HOLIDAYS (DECEMBR 24-26).
4. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL HALIM KHADDAM

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ARRIVES IN JORDAN ON DECEMBER 14 FOLLOWING ASHAF MARWAN

VISIT. HE IS EXPECTED BY RIFAI TO URGE ATTENDANCE BY JORDAN AT GENEVA AND AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING AT WHICH SYRIANS WILL PROPOSE, AND SEEKS JORDAN SUPPORT FOR, A POSITION WHICH WILL NOT PERMIT ANY OF ARAB STATES TO TAKE ANY NEGOTIATING STEPS WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT ALL OF THEM TAKING A STEP.

5. JORDAN REACTION TO QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IS TO SAY THAT IT WILL NOT GO WITHOUT MEETING WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA FIRST TO GET THEIR ANSWER TO KING'S LETTERS TO SADAT AND ASSAD. THIS IS MAJOR REASON FOR MARWAN AND KHADDAM VISIT. RIFAI IS THEN PREPARED TO GO TO MEETING, PREFERRING DAMASCUS OVER CAIRO. RIFAI HAS NEVER LIKED CAIRO AND OFTEN RECALLS WASFI TELL'S ASSASSINATION IN HIS CONVERSATIONS. JORDAN IF IT GOES WILL ALSO DEMAND PRIOR AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA AND WILL SEEK TO HAVE AS FIRST ITEM, EXPLANATION BY PLO OF ITS ANTI-JORDANIAN STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES SINCE SUMMIT, WITH A DEMAND BY JORDAN FOR A PUBLIC APOLOGY BY PLO AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO FURTHER WORK. RIFAI SAID THAT THEIR READING IS SADAT AND ASSAD INCREASINGLY UNHAPPY WITH PLO.

6. MEANWHILE, RIFAI SAYS JORDAN IS NOT FORCED BY INTERNAL CONTROVERSY AS IS PLO, NOR BY INTERNAL DISSIDENTENCE AS IS EGYPT, NOR IRAQI BAAATH PRESSURE AS IS SYRIA AND IS WILLING THEREFORE TO SIT TIGHT AND NOT MAKE WAVES. IF QUADRIPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING TAKES PLACE AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND A SUMMIT IS DESIRED, KING WOULD PROBABLY NOT REFUSE TO GO. COMMENT: THIS MOVES CONSIDERABLY FROM PREVIOUS ATTITUDE OF JORDANIANS--TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO PUT OFF MEETING WITH PLO. NOW THEY SEEM TO SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN TRYING TO TAKE A RESPONSIBLE POSITION, WITHOUT RESISTING QUADRIPARTITE GATHERING TOO STRONGLY. END COMMENT).

7. RIFAI ADDED THAT KING FEISAL WILL COME TO JORDAN JANUARY 17 AND 18 AFTER HIS VISIT TO SYRIA. SUDAN'S NUMERI IS EXPECTED LATER IN JANUARY. FORMER VISIT RIFAI FEELS IS MERELY TO "BALANCE" FEISAL'S
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TRIP TO SYRIA, LATTER VISIT CONTINUES PATTERN OF INCREASED SUDANESE CONTACTS IN ARAB WORLD WHICH JORDAN WELCOMES.

8. ON RABAT SUBSIDIES, RIFAI SAYS HE FEELS THAT DONORS HAVE NOW DECIDED NOT TO DELIVER FUNDS UNTIL 1975 SO THAT CONTRIBUTIONS WILL ALL BE COUNTED IN THAT YEAR, RATHER THAN MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1974 WHICH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE REPEATED BY RECIPIENTS AGAIN IN 1975.

PICKERING

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